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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its second regular session of 1990, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/60 of 26 July 1990 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its 1376th meeting, on 20 August 1990, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, in which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. 1/

3. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/18 of 20 November 1990, in paragraph 20 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council to continue, as appropriate, to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

4. Under the terms of the foregoing resolutions, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations with the President of the Economic and

Social Council in July 1991, an account of which is set out in document E/1991/116. In accordance with established practice, a representative of the Special Committee, Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, took part in the Council's consideration of the related item at its second regular session of 1991.

5. Introducing the item (item 13) before the Third Committee of the Economic and Social Council on 19 July 1991, the representative of the Special Committee stated, inter alia, that after the settlement of the question of Western Sahara, almost all the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would be sea-locked, small islands with specific and unique problems that required special attention. Accelerated economic and social development could only contribute to the speedy implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 in those Territories. That was why the Special Committee had always attached the utmost importance to its participation in the debates of the Economic and Social Council on the assistance that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system could provide to promote the economic and social advancement of the peoples of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. He requested those agencies and organizations to provide, as a matter of high priority, the assistance needed by those small island Territories to alleviate the adverse conditions arising from the interplay of such factors as their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of the ecosystem, constraints in transport and communications, great distance from market centres, highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens.

7. The representative of the Special Committee referred in particular to the important role that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system could play in the diversification of the economies of the small island Territories. He insisted on the assistance that those agencies and organizations could provide in designing rules and regulations that would prevent the dumping of toxic wastes on those islands, drift-net fishing in their territorial waters and the degradation of their environment. Those agencies and institutions were also expected to contribute to the efforts of those islands to eliminate drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal undertakings.

8. He invited the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to look for ways to ensure an increased flow of contributions towards assistance programmes for those Territories. He urged those agencies and organizations, in formulating their assistance programmes for the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, to take due account of General Assembly resolution 43/189 of 20 December 1988, as well as of the

conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 June 1990 (A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4, chap. II).

9. In conclusion, the representative of the Special Committee urged the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations to assist in achieving the objective set by General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, i.e., complete decolonization by the year 2000.

10. In accordance with established practice, a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.11) covering most of the issues addressed by the representative of the Special Committee in his statement, was submitted at the end of the general debate on the item.

11. The draft resolution was introduced on 24 July 1991 by the representative of Zambia, on behalf of the co-sponsors, and was adopted on the same day, as orally amended, by the Third Committee by a roll-call vote of 47 to none, with 1 abstention.

12. Information on further developments will be issued as addenda to the present report, as appropriate and necessary.

Notes

1/ A/45/23 (Part V), chap. VII, para. 17. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).